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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 149714.8 SB	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/IL 03/00947	International filing date (day/month/year) 12.11.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 14.11.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC F04B43/09		
Applicant Q-CORE LTD.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the opinion
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 14.06.2004	Date of completion of this report 22.03.2005
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Kolby, L Telephone No. +31 70 340-2204



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IL 03/00947

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-16 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-20 received on 21.06.2004 with letter of 14.06.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/18-18/18 as originally filed

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/L 03/00947

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

IV. Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees, the applicant has:

- restricted the claims.
- paid additional fees.
- paid additional fees under protest.
- neither restricted nor paid additional fees.

2. This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.

3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is

- complied with.
- not complied with for the following reasons:

see separate sheet

4. Consequently, the following parts of the international application were the subject of international preliminary examination in establishing this report:

- all parts.
- the parts relating to claims Nos. .

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	12,13,14
	No: Claims	1-11,15-20
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IL 03/00947

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/IL 03/00947

Re Item IV

Lack of unity of invention

1. This Authority considers that there are 2 inventions covered by the claims indicated as follows:

I: Claims 1-11 and 13-20 directed to a pump for generating fluid flow.

II: Claim 12 directed to a driving mechanism for use in a pump.

The reasons for which the inventions are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept, as required by Rule 13.1 PCT, are as follows:

The special technical features (STF), i.e those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, makes over the prior art, are not the same nor corresponding for the two groups of inventions (Rule 13.2 PCT).

Therefore, neither the problem underlying the subjects of the claimed inventions, nor their solutions defined by the special technical features allow for a relationship to be established between the said inventions, which involves a single general inventive concept.

In conclusion, therefore, the 2 groups of claims are not linked by common or corresponding special technical features and define different inventions not linked by a single general inventive concept. The application, hence does not meet the requirements of Unity of Invention as defined in Rule 13(1) & (2) PCT.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: US-A-4 014 318 (NITZKOWSKI NORMAN H ET AL) 29 March 1977 (1977-03-29)
D2: US-B-6 450 773 (UPTON ERIC LAWRENCE) 17 September 2002 (2002-09-17)
D3: US-A-5 577 891 (LOUGHNANE MICHAEL H ET AL) 26 November 1996 (1996-11-26)

The document D2. was not cited in the international search report.

2. Claims 1-11 and 13-20:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/IL 03/00947

Claim 1 contains a reference to the drawings (Figure 4). According to Rule 6.2(a) PCT, claims should not contain such references except where absolutely necessary, which is not the case here.

2.1 One possible clarification would have been to introduce the following features into claim 1:

i) that both the valves V_1 and V_3 and the valves V_2 and V_4 are operatively coupled so that the valve head of the valve V_1 and the valve head of the valve V_3 are not open or closed simultaneously and the valve head of the valve V_2 and the valve head of the valve V_4 are not open or closed simultaneously;

and

ii) that starting from a position where the valve heads of V_1 and V_2 are in a down position, the operatively coupled valves (V_1, V_3 and V_2, V_4) are alternately activated, starting by moving the valve head of V_1 to an up position.

2.2 Furthermore, the above-mentioned lack of clarity notwithstanding, the subject-matter of claim 1, as far as it can be understood, does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT, and therefore the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT are not met.

2.3 The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) (see figures 1,3 and 6a): A pump for generating fluid flow in an elastic tubular conduit (18) having a lumen, comprising:

(a) four electrically operated valves (12,14,16,17), each valve being positionable adjacent to the conduit (18), each valve having a valve head (34), the valve head (34) configured to alternate from a first position in which the lumen of the conduit adjacent to the valve head is unobstructed and a second position in which the lumen of the conduit adjacent to the valve head is obstructed; and

(b) a driver, comprising at four electromagnets (40,46), configured to control the positions of the valve heads (34), so as to execute a temporo-spatial array of valve head positions.

2.4 The subject-matter of claim 1 therefore differs from this known pump in that temporo-spatial array of valve head positions has to be according to Fig. 4.

2.5 Document D1 does not disclose the sequence of valve head positions for the four valve configuration. However, the sequence according to Fig. 4 would be one of several

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/IL 03/00947

straightforward possibilities from which the skilled person would select without the exercise of inventive skill. This sequence of valve head positions according to Fig. 4 has also already been employed for the same purpose in a similar pump, see document D2, Figures 5A-5E. It would therefore be obvious to the person skilled in the art, to apply this sequence according to D2 in the pump according to D1, thereby arriving at a pump according to claim 1.

~~The subject-matter of claim 1 does therefore involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).~~

2.6 The dependent claims 2-11 and 15-20 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT), since they either relate to normal design options or to technical measures well known in the field of pumps.

2.7 The combination of the features of dependent claims 13 and 14 is neither known from, nor rendered obvious by, the available prior art. Therefore the solutions proposed in claims 13 and 14 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

2.8 The subject-matter of claims 1-11 and 13-20 is deemed to be industrially applicable, as required by Article 33(4) PCT.

3. Claim 12:

The independent claim 12 is directed to a driving mechanism for use in a pump according to any one of the previous claims, i.e. a driving mechanism suitable for use in a pump according to any one of the previous claims (see PCT Guidelines Chapter 12, 12.05 and Chapter 5, 5.23).

3.1 Another prior art document D3 discloses a driving mechanism comprising: an lever pivotable around an axis, whereby the lever is actuated by means of an eccentric rotating device mounted on a rotating shaft.

3.2 The independent claim 12 is distinguished from these closest prior art documents D1 and D3 by at least the following features: a first auxiliary lever; a second auxiliary lever; an intermittently activatable electromagnet generating, when activated, a magnetic field between a first metal core arm and a second metal core arm; wherein the magnetic field causes rotation of an auxiliary lever about the axis when extremities

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/IL 03/00947

of the lever arm are not between the first and second core arms so as to bring the extremities between the first and second core arms.

The subject-matter of claim 12 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

3.3 The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as providing an alternative driving mechanism for use in a pump.

3.4 The solution (see §3.2) to this problem proposed in claim 12 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) because this solution is not rendered obvious by any of the documents D1 or D3 nor by a combination of these documents or any other prior art designs, since the state of the art does not offer any hints towards this solution.

3.5 The invention is industrial applicable in the field of pumps (Article 33(4) PCT).

CLAIMS:

1. A pump for generating fluid flow in an elastic tubular conduit having a lumen, comprising:

- (a) a plurality of electrically operated valves, each valve being positionable adjacent to the conduit, each valve having a valve head, the valve head configured to alternate from a first position in which the lumen of the conduit adjacent to the valve head is unobstructed and a second position in which the lumen of the conduit adjacent to the valve head is obstructed; and
- (b) a driver configured to control the positions of the valve heads, so as to execute a predetermined temporo-spatial array of valve head positions.

2. The pump according to Claim 1, in which each valve further comprises a permanent magnet attached to the valve head and an electromagnet having a wire coil operatively coupled to the valve head, so that when current flows in the coil in a first direction, the valve head assumes its first position, and when current flows in the coil in a second direction, the valve head assumes its second position.

3. The pump according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the valve heads have a first dimension positionable perpendicular to the axis of the conduit and a second dimension positionable parallel to the axis of the conduit, the second dimension of all of the valve heads being equal.

4. The pump according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the valve heads have a first dimension perpendicular to the axis of the conduit and a second dimension parallel to the axis of the conduit, and wherein the second dimensions are not all equal or the shape of the valve heads are not all the same.

5. A pump according to any one of the previous claims having $2n$ valves, $V_1, V_2 \dots V_{2n}$, $2n \geq 4$, wherein the valves V_k and V_{k+n} are operatively coupled so that the

- 18 -

valve head of the valve V_k and the valve head of the valves V_{k+n} are not open or closed simultaneously for $k=1, \dots, n$.

6. The pump according to Claim 5 having a base configured to maintain a segment of the conduit in a straight line or in an S shape.
- 5 7. The pump according to Claim 5 or 6, wherein $n=2$.
8. The pump according to any one of the previous claims wherein the tubular conduit is held in a sleeve.
9. The pump according to any one of the previous claims wherein the tubular conduit is preloaded.
- 10 10. The pump according to any one of the previous claims wherein one or more valve heads is oblique to the conduit.
11. The pump according to any one of the previous claims for generating a flow in a tubular conduit, at least some of the valve heads being configured such that when the valve is in its second position, flow of fluid may occur around the valve head, the pump being configured such that at least three of the valve heads are arranged in a non-linear array.
12. The pump according to any one of the previous claims further comprising a communications device for transmitting information to a remote receiver.
13. A pumping system comprising two or more pumps according to any one of
20 the previous claims.
14. The pumping system according to Claim 13 comprising two or more pumps in which at least two pumps are arranged in series.
15. The pumping system according to Claim 13 comprising two or more pumps in which at least two pumps are arranged in parallel.
- 25 16. A driving mechanism for use in a pump according to any one of claims 5, 6, or 7 comprising:
 - (a) An X shaped metal lever pivotable around an axis;
 - (b) A first auxiliary lever pivotable about the axis;
 - (c) A second auxiliary lever pivotable about the axis;

REPLACED BY
ART 34 AMDT

- 19 -

- (d) An intermittently activatable electromagnet generating, when activated, a magnetic field between a first metal core arm and a second metal core arm;
5 wherein the magnetic field causes rotation of an auxiliary lever about the axis when extremities of the lever arm are not between the first and second core arms so as to bring the extremities between the first and second core arms.
17. A pump according to any one of claims 5, 6, or 7 comprising the mechanism of Claim 16.
- 10 18. A pump according to any one of the previous claims, comprising:
(a) a lever bar pivotable around an axle, having a first end and a second end;
(b) a first valve head attached to the first end of the lever bar;
(c) a second valve head attached to the second end of the lever bar; and
15 (d) an electromagnet rotating the lever arm between a first configuration in which the first valve head is in an up position and the second valve head is in a down position, and a second configuration in which the first valve head is in a down position and the second valve head is in an up position.
- 20 19. A pump according to any one of the previous claims operated by batteries.
20. A pump according to any one of the previous claims comprising a control panel that is detachable from the rest of the pump.
21. The pump according to Claim 20 wherein communication between the control panel and the rest of the pump is via an electric cable.
- 25 22. The pump according to Claim 20 wherein communication between the control panel and the rest of the pump is via a wireless connection.
23. The pump according to any one of the previous claims further comprising a transceiver communicating with a remote station.

- 20 -

24. The pump according to any one of Claims 1 to 12 and 17 to 23 further comprising an anti-free flow device.
- ANTI-FREE FLOW DEVICE